

Aquatic Resources Restoration

USDA FOREST SERVICE
CHEROKEE NATIONAL FOREST

2015



Threatened & Endangered Fish Species

Your National Forests provide important habitats for wildlife and fish. The USDA Forest Service focuses on protecting and enhancing these habitats. National forests are managed to meet growing demands for water, recreation, energy, and other forest-based commodities while ensuring the sustainability and diversity of wildlife and fish.

The Cherokee National Forest is home to 38 federally listed threatened & endangered (T&E) species of plants, mussels, fish and terrestrial wildlife. The federally listed Citico darter, spotfin chub, smoky madtom, yellowfin madtom and Conasauga log perch are found in the Tellico and Ocoee Ranger Districts in Monroe and Polk counties. Through interagency cooperation and partnerships the Forest Service is working to bring these fish to sustainable populations in their native ranges.

Efforts by Conservation Fisheries, Inc., Forest Service, US Fish & Wildlife Service, Tennessee Wildlife Resources Agency, National Park Service, Tennessee Aquarium and others have helped to sustain threatened and endangered fish populations in east Tennessee.

Non-invasive capture and relocation from areas where species are more abundant to locations where species

abundance is low has helped to redistribute them to their once native ranges. Captive breeding efforts by Conservation Fisheries, Inc. (CFI) and other organizations have increased knowledge of breeding patterns, life history, and microhabitat requirements.



CFI facility in Knoxville

Use of propagated fish minimizes the impacts on wild populations of fish. Citico Creek and Tellico River in the Cherokee National Forest, and Abrams Creek in the Great Smoky Mountains National Park provide important habitat for smoky and yellowfin madtoms, as well as other T&E species. Madtoms are small catfish that hide in brush piles or bedrock crevices during the day and feed at night on aquatic invertebrates and small fish. Clean water and bedrock gravel are vital habitat requirements for these unique fish.

The Forest Service, in cooperation with the U.S. Fish & Wildlife Service, CFI and many others is striving to protect and sustain viable populations of T&E aquatic species in the Cherokee National Forest.

Restoration in Action



Spotfin chub release



Smoky madtom, noturus trautum



Yellowfin madtom release